

37. (Original) An apparatus for automatically processing  
2 and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus  
comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field  
data that has been collected; and

6 a data repository connectable to said processing computer  
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,  
8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

a plurality of reference networks;

10 a geographic information system having a plurality of  
asset layers;

12 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
observation types; and

14 a plurality of pre-defined associations between each  
of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
16 observation types, wherein said data repository is  
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined  
18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality  
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

22 converts each of said plurality of field data  
into an appropriate one of said primary observation  
types;

37. (After Examiner's Amendment) An apparatus for  
2 automatically processing and managing spatial asset information,  
the apparatus comprising:  
4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field  
data that has been collected; and  
6 a—data repository connectable to said processing computer  
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,  
8 wherein said data repository further comprises,  
10 a plurality of reference networks;  
12 a geographic information system having a plurality of  
asset layers;  
14 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
observation types; and

of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
observation types, wherein said data repository is  
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined

18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality  
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

22 converts each of said plurality of field data  
into an appropriate one of said primary observation  
types;

24 correlates each of said converted primary  
observation types of each of said plurality of field  
data to an appropriate one of said plurality of  
26 reference networks and an appropriate one of said  
plurality of asset layers; and

28 ~~updates said appropriate one of said plurality of  
asset layers with each of said converted primary  
observation types of each of said plurality of field data~~  
30 ~~wherein said collecting of field data further comprises:~~

32 capturing free speech stating verbal observations  
34 containing voice data;

36 capturing location data contemporaneously with each of  
said verbal observations;

38 time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a  
raw verbal observation; and

time-stamping said captured location data.

37. **(Applicant's Version)** An apparatus for automatically  
2 processing and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus  
comprising:

4           a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field  
data that has been collected; and

6           a data repository connectable to said processing computer  
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,  
8   wherein said data repository further comprises,

          a plurality of reference networks;

10           a geographic information system having a plurality of  
asset layers;

12           a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
observation types; and

14           a plurality of pre-defined associations between each  
of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary  
16   observation types, wherein said data repository is  
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined  
18   instances of primary observation types and said plurality  
of pre-defined associations;

20   wherein said processing computer,

          converts each of said plurality of field data  
22   into an appropriate one of said primary observation  
types;

24           correlates each of said converted primary  
observation types of each of said plurality of field  
26   data to an appropriate one of said plurality of  
reference networks and an appropriate one of said  
28   plurality of asset layers; and

updates said appropriate one of said plurality of  
30 asset layers with each of said converted primary  
observation types of each of said plurality of field data;

32 and

wherein said collecting of field data further  
34 comprises:

capturing free speech stating verbal observations  
36 containing voice data;

capturing location data contemporaneously with each of  
38 said verbal observations;

time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a  
40 raw verbal observation; and

time-stamping said captured location data.